

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AGR-20 DRC-01 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 /091 W

----- 077718

R 261830Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9630

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 0644

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, GY

SUBJECT: BACK TO WORK CALL ISSUED AFTER THREE DAY STRIKE IN SUGAR  
INDUSTRY

REF: GEORGETOWN 0603

1. SUMMARY: BACK TO WORK CALL ISSUED APRIL 25 FOLLOWING  
THREE DAY STRIKE BY WORKERS IN SUGAR INDUSTRY WHICH AFFECTED  
PRODUCTION ON MOST ESTATES. WORKERS ON ALL BUT ONE ESTATE  
EXPECTED TO RESPOND TO CALL. STRIKE CALLED BY GUYANA AGRI-  
CULTURAL WORKERS UNION(GAWU), LABOR ARM OF OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S  
PROGRESSIVE PARTY, TO PUSH VARIOUS PAY AND WORKING CONDITIONS  
DEMANDS. MINISTER OF LABOR HAS NOW AGREED TO MEET WITH GAWU.  
BACKLOG OF UNRESOLVED WORKER GRIEVANCES, COMPLICATED BY UNION  
RECOGNITION DISPUTE, MAKES OUTLOOK FOR LABOR PEACE UNCERTAIN,  
UNLESS ACTION IS TAKEN SOON BY INDUSTRY AND GOVT. END SUMMARY.

2. ON APRIL 25, HARRY LALL, PRESIDENT OF GUYANA AGRICULTURAL  
WORKERS UNION(GAWU) ISSUED BACK TO WORK CALL FOLLOWING  
THREE DAY STRIKE BY SUGAR WORKERS. ACCORDING TO SUGAR PRO-  
DUCERS ASSOCIATION(SPA), STRIKE AFFECTED PRODUCTION ON MOST  
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ESTATES. EMBOFF WHO VISITED LOCAL ESTATE YESTERDAY NOTED NO

CANE BEING CUT AND FACTORY OPERATING ONLY WITH CANE PROVIDED BY SMALL INDEPENDENT FARMERS. WITH GAWU BACK TO WORK CALL, WORKERS ARE EXPECTED TO RETURN AT ALL ESTATES EXCEPT ALBION WHERE LOCAL GRIEVANCES REMAIN UNRESOLVED.

3. GAWU, UNRECOGNIZED UNION FOR FIELD AND FACTORY WORKERS AND LABOR ARM OF PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY(PPP), CALLED STRIKE OVER PAY AND WORKING CONDITIONS ISSUES INCLUDING; FIVE DAY WORK WEEK, STATUS OF TEMPORARY WORKERS, OVERTIME PAY, TRANSPORTATION FOR WORKERS, LOANS FOR HOUSING, AND USE OF WORKER COMMUNITY CENTERS. LALL CALLED OFF STRIKE WHEN LABOR MINISTER WINSLOW CARRINGTON AGREED TO DISCUSS ISSUES. RECOGNITION OF GAWU AS BARGAINING AGENT FOR WORKERS WAS APPARENTLY NOT DIRECT ISSUE, ALTHOUGH INDIRECTLY STRIKE SERVES TO STRENGTHEN GAWU CLAIM IN CURRENT DISPUTE(REFTEL).

4. COMMENT: THREE DAY STRIKE HIGHLIGHTS BACKLOG OF WORKER GRIEVANCES WHICH HAS BEEN GROWING DURING ONGOING RECOGNITION DISPUTE BETWEEN AWU AND RECOGNIZED UNION, MANPOWER CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (MPCA). CURRENTLY WORKERS COVERED ONLY BY EXTENSION OF 1973 CONTRACT WHICH EXPIRED IN JANUARY 1974 WHILE NEW CONTRACT TALKS BETWEEN SPA AND MPCA HOPELESSLY STALLED. WORKERS HAVE NOT YET BENEFITED FROM INCREASED SUGAR PRICES NOR HAVE THEY HAD OPPORTUNITY TO CATCH UP WITH INCREASED COST OF LIVING. UNLESS ACTION IS TAKEN SOON BY INDUSTRY AND GOVT TO RESOLVE THESE GRIEVANCES AND END RECOGNITION DISPUTE BETWEEN GAWU AND MPCA, LABOR PEACE FOR FALL SUGAR CROP IS UNLIKELY. KREBS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SUGAR, LABOR UNIONS, AGRICULTURAL WORKERS, LABOR OBJECTIVES, LABOR STRIKES, STRIKE SETTLEMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 APR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974GEORGE00644  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740100-0182  
**From:** GEORGETOWN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740412/aaaaajuo.tel  
**Line Count:** 88  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** GEORGETOWN 0603  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 SEP 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 SEP 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <06 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BACK TO WORK CALL ISSUED AFTER THREE DAY STRIKE IN SUGAR INDUSTRY  
**TAGS:** ELAB, PINT, GY, GUYANA AGRICULTURAL WORKERS UNION, MANPOWER CITIZENS ASSOCIATION, MPCA, GWUA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005